A Seasonable

WATCH-WORD

UNTO CHRISTIANS

Against the

DREAMS & DREAMERS

Of this GENERATION:

Delivered in a SERMON November 16th. 1665.

And being the last Lecture, which was Preached By that Reverend, Faithful and Eminent Man of God

Mr. JOHN WILSON.

Sometime Pastor of the Church of Christ in Boston in New-England.

Acts 20. 26, 27. Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men: For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

CAMBRIDGE:
Printed by S. Green & S. Green. 1677.

Christian Reader,

THere being too too many filthy Dreamers crept in among us, who by their filthy Dreams Blaspheme that worthy Name whereby we are called, renouncing that One Holy, Blessed and Eternal God, in three Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, into whose Name we are Baptized; and that one only Mediator between God and Man, that Man Christ Jesus, and the whole Doctrine of divine efficiency both in the decree, particularly Election and Reprobation, and the execution thereof in the fall and restauration in Redemption, and the application thereof, and so denying the resurrection and the last judgement, together with the authority of the holy Scriptures, yea, under the sacred words, Repent, Repent, calling upon men to renounce and deny all their Religion, and the profession and practise thereof, saying (as Edward Burrows in his Preface to George Foxes Mystery) that they have sufficient cause to cry against us, and to deny our ministry, our Church, our Worship, and our whole Religion: And some of them (called and known by the name of Quakers) under the pretence of the light within them, and of the Spirit as their only Rule, having (even of their Women) been acted in a most beastly, shameful and horrid manner among us, against the very light of nature, and the common dictates of modesty, especially in that Sex, so as to go openly, and wholly naked, in the day time, in some of our most frequented streets, and of our publick Assemblies. Another of them to transform her self into a deformed shape, as 'twere of the Devil, unto not only the disturbance and affrighting of others in the solemn Assembly for Worship, but to the hazarding thereby the lives of divers Women with Child, together with the fruit of the Womb, as befell on the Lords day in Boston on the 8th. of this month, (besides other practical abominations which their Principles lead them to.)

It was judged meet to set before you in Print that solemn, serious and seasonable Testimony, which was given by that holy, prayerfull and prevailing Man of God, that sometimes faithful, prudent, and watchful Pastor of that eminent Church of Christ, which was the first in Boston, that now blessed John Wilson by name, which was Preached by him in his last Lecture Sermon in the said Church

the 16 of November 1677. and very rarely from the mouth to Characters by the pen of a ready and judicious writer, and hath been compared and found faithful by my self also who took it in Characters. It was judged meet (I say) to Print to for our further Humiliation, who have caused such Dreams to be dreamed, by not believing, embracing, cleaving to, and carefully observing of the Doctrine of the Apostles so plentifully delivered unto us by the faithful Stewards of the mysteries of God and Ministers of Christ, to build us up on him in faith and love. To shew also how inexcusable those among us are, who against all such warnings are still flocking after such filthy dreamers, who defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of Dignities, Jude 8. To establish such as may be wavering, and are of a doubtful mind, and lastly to encourage the Righteous to hold fast the faithful word, which they have received, as the very sheep of Christ, of whom he hath said Joh. 10. 27. My sheep hear my voice and they follow me, & v. 5 A stranger they will not follow but will flee from him, for they know not the voice of strangers. But if any will be flocking after these ravening wolves in sheeps cloathing, let such know that God sends these strong delusions in the unsearchable depth of his righteous judgement against those that believed not the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness, that they all might be damned in believing a lye, and that the approved might be made manifest, And also let them know that the time shall come wherein, whether they will hear or forbear to hear they shall know that many faithful Prophets have been among them, and through his grace still are, for neglect and contempt of whose seasonable warnings they shall perish, and their blood shall be upon their own heads, according to Ezek. 33 beginning But the faithful watchmen that have seasonably sounded the Trumpet have thereby delivered their own Souls, being pure from the blood of all men.

Now the God of peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great Shepherd of the Sheep through the blood of the everlasting Covenant make you perfect in every good work to do his will working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever Amen: His I am, and him I desire to fear, and for his sake I am in bonds.

Yours to serve you in the Gospel

Boston 23. 8. 1677. Thomas Thacher.

Jer. 29, 8. For thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, let not your Prophets, and your Dreamers, that be in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your Dreames, which ye cause to be dreamed.

IT is a strange thing (my Brethren) that the Lord should speak in this manner to his people, or that there should be such a thing found among them; for he speaks to the Rulers, and to the old men, &c. and he saith that they had caused these things to be spoken, that are Dreams, and the Lord doth give warning to them, that they should not hearken to these Dreams: what! the people of God that professe his holy name? will they have an hand in this woke to have Dreams spoken, and to have Dreamers come, that shall be instrumental of the damnation of the souls of men? but it is so sometimes, that there are those that will compell others to these things: as I remember there were those that came to Aaron, and would have a Calf made, &c. and I remember there was one, that came to the Prophet *Micaiah*, and told him of these and those Prophets that did declare good to the King with one mouth: and let thy word be like the word of one of them, and speak that which is good: but they were a company of

never speak a good word to me, therefore I hate him: and the messenger that goes to him tells him that there were so many hundreds of them that do speak pleasing things to the King, and I pray thee do thou speak such like things to him, that may be matter of contentment to him; but that Prophet of the Lord would not turn to the right hand, or to the left, for the King, or for any other; but what God did put into his mouth, that he would speak: and so it is generally, that when the false Prophet doth arise among the People of God, it is because of Gods people that are the cause of it: and it is they that do set them up, and maintain them, and would have pillows laid under their elbows: and why is it so? why (my Brethren) even since it was that Eve did hearken to the voice of the Serpent: And also the children of God are much given to novelties; these are things that they never heard of before: and if they may have these and those things spoken which they never heard of before, this is all many care for, though they are such things as came not out of the mouth of God: yet because they are new things, and that please their humors, therefore they affect them: thus the Apostle *Paul*, one would think an Apostle good enough; yet there were many that were unsatisfied with him, as in the Epistle to the *Galatians* we read, *& bewitched with the false Teachers*; these give us (say they) the Gospel in this and that way, &c. however they did once look at the Apostle *Paul* as an Angel of God, even as Christ Jesus: but now the case was altered: and now *Paul* was no body: and come of him what would, he might starve for all them: they were carried away after those that vented their new things.

Again the word of the Lord doth come with marvelous great power, and might, when it is dispensed as it should be and accompanied with the holy Spirit of God: and men cannot go on so pleasingly and quietly in their sinful wayes, &c. but these Prophets of God are ready to be upon their backs, and fit upon their skirts, & tell them their own &c. Again another reason is, because the people of God, that live under the word of God where God is stretching forth his hands all the day long, are

through

(through corruption in them) were weary of the things of God &c. that because divers of them have not received the truth of God in the love of it, for if they had received the truth in the love of it, then they would abide still in that love of the truth, and would not account any thing too good for the faith of the Gospel of God. But there are Hypocrites that come into the Congregation, and sit in the same Pews, and seem to be very attentive, and sometimes speak such a word as this [*A brave Sermon*] and [*A fine Sermon*] *a gallant Sermon it was that we heard to day* &c.] but yet they never subjected themselves indeed to the truth of God; and will not part with their lusts which they foster in their own bosoms: and if they love not the truth, there is something else which they love surely; and indeed it is true even as our Lord and Saviour Christ saith in the 5th of *John*, *I am come in my Father's Name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name him ye will receive*: and him they shall receive, though it should be in the Devils name: and now it is just for God himself to give them over to the believing of lies, and to strong delusions, and if there be one delusion more strong then another, and more abominable then another, yet it will go down with them, as they that would have *Barrabbas* rather then Christ, so it is with these that would not have the truth, nor did receive it in the love of it. The Devil himself of Hell cannot propose to them a lye more abominable then other, but they will receive the same, and God is just in this Judgement upon them for dallying with this truth: and for their not receiving of it; Satan is an enemy to God, and an enemy to the truth: and when the Corn was sown in the field, then that enemy comes, and he sows his Tares: he hath a great hand in stirring up such men as these, and puts these Dreams into their heads, and he will set up his Kingdome to pull down the blessed Kingdome of the Lord Jesus Christ thereby: and he will have his Ministers, and he will have deceivers (transforming himself into an Angel of light) and he will come in the Name of God, and in the name of Christ also, even as the vagabond Jews *Act.* 19. and the sons of *Sceva* are said to do so. There is nothing that the true Prophets do, but the Devil by turning himself into an Angel of light, do the like. The

Devil

Devil ſpake that truth, as it may be queſtioned whether there can be a better truth ſpoken concerning Jeſus Chriſt, *i. e. thou art the holy One of God*: and ſo the Damoniack we know, that ſaid theſe men are the Servants of the moſt high God, which ſhew unto us the way of ſalvation; could you have ſpoken better words than theſe? but that was only to make way for the bringing forth other things, that are in the pack, &c. Now ſaith the Lord *do not you hearken to theſe Dreamers*: it is a very lamentable thing to ſee that any ſuch Dreamers ſhould ariſe, as *Quakers* and *Ranters*, and theſe and thoſe that trouble the Churches of God: but whom may we thank for it? even Gods People: in our Text God here ſaith, *you have cauſed theſe Dreamers thus to ſpeak their Dreams*, i. e. by ſetting them up, or countenancing them: & by not teſtifying againſt them: God would have us ſeek to the Prophets, but it is to thoſe that indeed come in his Name, and are ſent by him: and if we do deſpiſe his Servants, we deſpiſe him: but as when thoſe that did adjure by Jeſus, whom *Paul* Preached; it was ſaid to them, *who are you?* ſo may the Lord ſay, theſe and thoſe that are ſent in my Name I know, but as for you (theſe or thoſe) *who are you?* But alas, if God leave People to themſelves, what will they not come unto! This is one reaſon of it alſo, namely, becauſe People are ready to follow a multitude: do you not ſee how they flock after them, and like them very well: and for your Miniſters (Miniſters) what are they? and, as *Corah* and his Company, we can preach as well as you: and we can offer Incenſe as well as you: and Baptize as well as you, &c. yea, but Chriſt ſaith, you ſhall know them by their fruits: but thus are they crying down, and crying out againſt the faithful Miniſters of God: and if we look into this Chapter, ſee what they ſay: is there not *Jeremiah* that maketh himſelf a Prophet? whereas it was not Man, but God that made him a Prophet: alas poor man! he would have been glad to have been out of the work, but that God did call him to that work: but they had rather have ſome other than *Jeremiah* to be the Prophet: Theſe Miniſters, what are theſe Miniſters? but if you would go to ſuch a manner of Meeting, and hear what things are ſpoken there, you would like others

better

better then your Minister: and so are men ready to cry up these as the great power of God, as was of him said, *Act. 8.* thus 'tis here; but I beseech you (my Brethren) if men will cast off the Lord, and his Ordinances, and follow their own humours, let them alone, as *Mat. 15. they are blind leaders of the blind*; but yet notwithstanding the Lord hath pitty upon his poor people when he sees them thus taken in the net, and the Lord comes in now to give them warning: O do not hearken to these Dreamers, but hearken to the holy Word of God, even as in the Psalm now sung, *Psal. 119. The Word, the Word, the Word (and the Statutes, the Statutes, the Statutes of God*, and the *Ordinances of God*, &c. Oh these are the things which we are to observe: one word from the Lord is to be preferred before all other matters. You may think it a strange thing that thus they should speak against the faithful Ministers of God, but thus it hath been with the Prophets of old, yea, and with our Saviour Jesus Christ himself, who did not preach as the Scribes did, but with authority, and it was spoken of him, that God would raise up a Prophet like to *Moses*, &c. but yet when he comes into his Ministry, to draw all men to the faith and obedience of his holy name: yet (He, O they would have made a King of him, when as he did so wonderfully feed them: and never man spake as he! &c. but) afterward what was our Lord Jesus in their account? even a *Wine-bibber* and a *Glutton*, and a *man that did practise with the Devil himself*, even with *Belzebub* himself: thus did they speak against our Saviour Jesus Christ: and yet Christ did labour among them, and gave them many warnings: Wo be to *Corazin*: and wo be to thee *Bethsaida*: and wo be to these, and wo be to those: but at length they came to that to cry up *Barrabbas* before him: yet Christ did not leave giving warning, *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, I would have gathered thee as an hen gathereth her Chickens under her wings*: and he did weep over them; that they would not know the things of their peace: and that though he came to them, yet they (even his own) did not receive him; but were weary of his Ministry: and the *Romans* (say they) will come and destroy us: they thought it would be their utter undoing, whereas indeed that was the

 cause.

cause of their overthrow that they did reject him: yet still our Saviour Jesus Christ goes on to preach to them: and so it is in our dayes: and there be those that go about, and give it out, as though here were Christ: and how many are ready to hearken to such: but consider, what came you into this Wilderness for? did you come to gaze upon one another? &c. no, you came to see, and hear that great Prophet, even the Lord Jesus in his Ministers, that you might have the Ordinances of God in his Churches rightly gathered, and the holy Sacraments rightly administred: I trow you did not come hither for the World, to scrape the World: much less to put your necks under these and those that would overturn all order among you: but O foolish *Galatians, who hath bewitched you?* you come hither to hear the blessed voice of Jesus Christ, and you did make account that when you came hither, O how holy should you be; &c. and we came not to separate from the Churches in *Old England* (God forbid) but we did indeed only separate from the pollutions there: but alas, *who hath bewitched you?* that there should be any found to leave the blessed Ordinances of God, and to follow these and those: and if he be a new one, and have new things to teach them, that is enough to many: but the word of God will not spare any in their sins: nay let men sleep quietly in their sin: will not let the Drunkard alone, nor the Swearer alone, &c. but these Dreamers have their soft Pillows to place under mens Elbows, that they may not be hurt by leaning thereon: but see here the mercy of God that would not have men let alone, and run to hell in such way of their Dreams: *O do not this abominable thing that my soul hates!* and did not the Lord give warning to *Korah* and his company? and so to the People, that they might not follow them? but away, away, save your souls, and come not near them if you love your lives, if you love your souls come not near to those men, but hearken to the voice of God; so here, &c. And therefore hearken not to the Dreamers, and Dreams which you have caused them to Dream: but if you have been deluded, come out from those delusions; if by your connivances, or entertainments, and the like, we have encouraged such Dreamers, O continue no longer so to do: And if these would

not

not (in our Text) [illegible] them [illegible] to those Dreamers, yet I here [illegible] the name of the Lord [illegible] to give you warning: O [illegible] not to these [illegible] ers; God will tell you one day you had your [illegible] *Norton*, and your *Hooker*, and your *Shepard*, [illegible] and these and those, you had my Ministers, and [illegible] a Minister that God hath sent, but the time will [illegible] if you have heard them, and [illegible] them, O what a sweet meeting will that be, and then may they say, Lord, here we are, and the Children that thou hast given us, &c. But otherwise God will say, why did you not receive them? when they come to despise the Prophets of the Lord, were it but the least of the holy Prophets and Messengers of the Lord, the wrath of the Lord rose against his People, so that there was no remedy: hearken not therefore to these or those Dreams or Dreamers, but stop your ears against them: as the Adder that keeps her self from being charmed, she is said to stop her ear with the ground on which she lyeth, and the other ear with some other part of her body; so in this case stop your ears against them, and take heed in this case: else Conscience will fly in your faces another day, and say I told you of it, and I checked you for it, and you would not regard. But therefore hearken to those that do in a right manner speak to you the word of God, that are fitted for it, and are called of God to that work of the Ministry: hearken to these: And have you not (many of you) been converted by the Ministers of God? and have you not been comforted by them many a time? &c. and will you now cast off the Lord, and his servants? O to day, while it is called to day, hearken to the Lords voice; the Lord is yet willing to receive you, and to protect you; but if you hearken to these Dreamers, God will turn to be your Enemy: and will testifie against such, as against *Ahab*, and *Zedechiah* spoken of in the Chapter where our text is, that were left to commit villany in Israel, even to commit Adultery with their Neighbours Wives (and that is the fruit of these and those Sects, and Errors, that such shall be left to commit such like uncleanness) and the King roasted these Dreamers in the fire, as one would roast an hog: and this did become a

Proverb, *The Lord make thee like Zedechiah and like Ahab, &c.* And so I say, mark what will come on such like Dreamers: and so saith the Apostle, mark those that do cause divisions, and offences, contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned, and avoid them: mark them so as to avoid them, and mark the course that the Lord will take with them, and with those that will follow after them. There are many Dreamers in these times, the Quaker hath his Dreams, and the Seeker hath his Dreams, and I cannot reckon up all of them: and one Dream doth beget another, but the Lord doth testifie against them all: and the Lord calls them bad Figs, none so bad as those Figs were that did thus despise the Lords Prophets and Messengers, or Ministers: the Dreamers would take you off from them, but I beseech you that you wou'd not hearken to those Dreamers, but hearken to the voice of the Lord by his Ministers in their speeches, in their writings. I have known *New-England* about thirty six years, and I never knew such a time as this is that we live in: you came hither for your Children, Sons and Daughters, and for your Grand-children to be under the Ordinances of God, that they might be as Plants in the Lords house, was not this a great end in your coming hither? now if you love your selves, your Families, your Children, if you love God, if you love Christ, if you love Heaven, then hearken not to Dreamers, nor cause them to Dream that would corrupt the People of God, and that would take them off from the holy and blessed will of God in these things: you would not suffer any to come and rob you of your Money, or your Jewels, &c. would you let them come into your Houses, and take them away by force from you? no, you wu'd thrust them away, and what have you to do here? O much more so, when they come to rob you of the Ordinances of God, and of his faithful Ministers; this is as much as in them lies to take away our God from us, and communion with him: go serve other Gods, said *Saul*, by his acting, in his thrusting poor *David* away from the Ordinances of God: and so the two Tribes and a half were very careful about their Children, that it might not be said to them, what have you to do with the Lord God of Israel? and you have no part in the Lord, and so their Children

should

ſhould be made to ceaſe from fearing the Lord: and when they ſaw any thing that did look like a new Religion, and like a ſuperſtition, now the people of God arm themſelves, and let us go every one, and ſuppreſs and deſtroy thoſe that would be the Authors thereof, unleſs they did repent: and what do they ſay? the Lord God of Gods, he knoweth this and that: what! go and ſet up an Altar againſt Gods Altar! O wretches that we were if ſo we ſhould do, but we were afraid leſt in time to come your Children might ſpeak unto our Children ſaying, what have you to do with the Lord God of *Iſrael*? and therefore that Altar was only a memorial that we and our Children are in the Covenant of God; ſo it ſhould be; we are to be zealous for God, and zealous for his Ordinances, that we our ſelves may injoy them, and alſo our Children after us, and that none might thruſt them from their part in the Lord, and from their enjoyment of the Ordinances of God. We are afraid ſometimes of Turk, or Pope, or theſe and thoſe: be you afraid of nothing, but as our Lord & Saviour Chriſt ſaith, I will tell you whom you ſhall fear: do not fear men that kill the body, but fear him that can kill the ſoul: and love the Lord, fear God, and honour the King, that is the duty of every good Chriſtian: above all fear and obey the Lord: hearken to the good word of God, that is able to ſave your ſouls, and build you up, and give you an inheritance among them that ſhall be ſaved: that when the Lord Jeſus ſhall come in flaming fire, he may have nothing to ſay againſt you, but may ſay unto you *come ye bleſſed inherit the Kingdome prepared for you*, : and here is life and death ſet before you: *New-England*, here is life and death ſet before thee; chooſe which you will: Let the Governour chooſe which he will, let the Church of Boſton chooſe which they will, let us all chooſe life, and chooſe to ſerve the Lord, we and our Houſes as *Joſhua*, and then God will be with us: and if God be with us, who is there that can be againſt us to hurt us? and ſo be for God, as to live to God, and to be willing to dy for him alſo if he call us to it: O be willing to ſubmit to his will, that we may be able to kiſs the ſtake, and the fagot if the Lord call us to it; There is no King in the World that hath ſuch a Crown as that would be: we are

[illegible] (as *John Frith* did) what it may coſt us to be for, and to ſerve the Lord? truſt not in men, truſt not in the Governour, truſt not in the Magiſtrates: truſt not in your Captains, truſt not in your Caſtle, or Ammunition, truſt not in your own righteouſneſs, but truſt in this, that if the Lord be your God, and if you walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleaſing, that he will be with you: and ſay as the holy Prophet *David*; *Here we are Lord, and thou know.ſt that we came hither to ſtrend our ſelves, and our Children under thy wings, and leave our witneſs behind us when we are dead: but here we are, and do to us even as is good in thine eyes*: and yet as he ſaid, who knoweth but we ſhall finde mercy in his ſight; but then walk as *David* did: that though not afraid of the Lyon or Bear; or of ten thouſand of his Enemies, yet he flies from his Son: and then what did he? truly he went bare-headed by the aſcent of *Mount Oliveſt*, weeping as he went: and Kingdome or no Kingdome, he left that to God; but there prayeth to God, and that was a Prayer againſt *Abitophel* [*Lord curſe the counſel of Abitophel*] and God did hear him, and reſtore him to his Houſe, and Kingdome, and Glory again: ſo let us all pray, and repent; Governour repent, Magiſtrates repent, Miniſters repent, People every one repent, young and old repent, and then it ſhall go well with us.

FINIS.